

**Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, December 9, 1813,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO JOHN COFFEE.**

Fort Strother, December 9, 1813.

*Sir:* The disquietude of the volunteers has grew to a hight, that it impossible to tell in what it may end I have been on yesterday threatened with disagreeable events on the 10th. unless they are discharged. They know I have not the power to discharge. I have advised them of my having applied to the governor, for orders to discharge them, and I have also informed them that I have on my own responsibility, ordered Colo Carol on to bring on as many volunteers as would Justify me in dismissing them. that this was all I could do. with patience they would get out of the field with Credit, but after all these exertions on my part if mutiny or sedition shew itself in my camp at all hazards I would put it down. what may be attempted tomorrow I cannot tell, but should they attempt to march off in mass, I shall do my duty, should the mutineers be too strong, and you should meet any officers or men, returning without my written authority, you will arrest and bring them back in strings, and if they attempt to disobay your order you will immediately fire on them and continue the fire untill they are subdued, you are to compell them to return.

you will regulate your march to this place by the prospect of provisions comeing on, carefully foraging your horses, at such place as a supply can be furnished, if a supply can be furnished you at Thompsons Camp or Fort deposit, I wish you to cross the river and employ your force in stopping all desserters whether officers or men, and particularly officers, we must yield our independance or govern in camp as well as the laws govern at home, and each and every man who mutinys in the field would be a traitor at home if it

## Library of Congress

was not for fear of Punishment and the power of the laws. I have therefore to repeat that every officer or man found on the return march without my permission in writing or that of my aids are to be arrested and brought back, and in case of resistance immediately shot. I have heard thro differrent runners from Tulladega that the georgia army in conjunction with the Cowetas has had a battle with the hostile creeks, and the Georgians have been compelled to retreat. The wolf reached me last night as express from Tulladega, informing that some of their people who had long endeavoured to Join them and had been prevented by the red sticks, arived at the fort on the night of the 7th. and informed them that the creeks told them that they had entirely defeated and killed the whole of the Georgia army, and that they had got all their guns a pile as big as a house. but the wolf says the red sticks are such liars, he does not believe it. I have no doubt but they have had a battle and the advance has been beaten, and compelled to fall back upon the main body. This has emboldened the Eight Towns that we severely beat at Tulladega and were suing for peace on any terms, to consent to Join the red sticks and are now concentrating their forces within forty miles of Tulladega to give us battle. I have attempted to force an express through the creek nation to the Georgia army. I hope to be correctly informed in four days of the result, from all which you will see the necessity of our advancing as soon as supplies will Justify the movement, and you will come on as early as supplies can be forwarded by the contractors.

In haste I am yrs affectionately